

tral empire would further Italy's ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean. The German government has indicated furthermore that the marine supremacy of Great Britain and France would have the effect of crushing Italy.

Representatives of the allies in their negotiations with the Italian government have presented the matter in quite a different light. They have united in saying that the defeat of Germany and Austria-Hungary is inevitable, even without the participation of Italy. In case Italy refrains from taking part she will receive nothing from the allies when the settlements are made. They conceive the further argument that with the making of peace, or shortly thereafter, the restoration of Hungary from Austria is quite to be expected. This would lead to the absorption of the Austrian provinces of German nationality by Germany and the consequent extension of German dominion to Trieste, which thus would forever be lost to Italy. In addition, Italy would be forced to abandon Avion and the Aegean islands.

**Troops Guard Tunnel.**

A Havana dispatch from Milan says: "There was a great demonstration here last night in favor of intervention by Italy on the side of the allies. Crowds of manifestants marched through the streets and gathered in front of the cathedral. The republican deputy, Eugenio Bissias, made a speech to the crowd in front of the chamber of commerce."

"The police charged and dispersed crowds which were shouting: 'Down with Austria,' 'Down with Germany.' It is understood here that the government has issued an order expelling from Italy the correspondents of the Vienna Tageblatt and the Frankfurter Zeitung. Troops are guarding day and night the railroad tunnel on the frontiers, near Gopos, where police recently arrested several Germans disguised as workmen. They were suspected of an attempt to blow up the tunnel in case of mobilization."

It is reported that a large part of the Italian navy is being concentrated at Taranto, at the southeastern extremity of the country, and the point nearest the Dardanelles.

## BABY'S DEATH BRINGS NEW FUMIGATION ACT

Health Officer Recommends Control of Business of Disinfecting in District.

Following the death of an infant in an apartment house, under circumstances which led the Health Department to believe that it might have been due to a process of fumigation on the floor below, Health Officer W. C. Woodward today recommended to the Commissioners the adoption of regulations for the control of the business of disinfecting and fumigating.

Health Officer Woodward says in a letter to Commissioner Brownlow that unfortunately no investigation was made of the case at the time as would permit a positive statement to be made whether the child's death was due to poisoning.

"However, this department," he says, "has been unable to procure from the person who was responsible for the fumigation that was done on the premises where the death occurred, specimens that the department can accept as being specimens of the material used at that time."

## Redfield Invites Pilots To Meet Boat Inspectors

Discussion of proposed minor changes in the rules of the organization took up the morning session of the Association of Masters, Mates, and Pilots today, and present indications are that the association will be in conference at the Ebbitt Hotel the rest of the week.

Capt. James H. Pratt, president of the association, has received from Secretary of Commerce Redfield an invitation to all the delegates to visit the department and discuss the matters affecting navigation. It is probable that the entire body of delegates, about thirty men, will call on Secretary Redfield late this week.

## Legislator Would Lift Speed Ban for Doctors

ALBANY, March 17.—Would you like to exceed the automobile speed limit without running the risk of being arrested? Then study medicine and get an M. D. Senator Hamilton introduced a bill permitting physicians and surgeons to drive as fast as a fire department chief when in their reasonable belief it is necessary to save human life or to prevent great bodily injury.

## THE WEATHER REPORT.

District of Columbia—Fair tonight and Thursday; lowest temperature tonight, about 32 degrees.

Maryland—Fair tonight and Thursday; moderate northwest winds.

Virginia—Fair tonight; cooler in central and southeast portions; Thursday fair, moderate northwest winds.

TEMPERATURES.	
U. S. BUREAU.	AFLECK'S.
8 a. m. .... 29	8 a. m. .... 31
9 a. m. .... 31	9 a. m. .... 31
10 a. m. .... 32	10 a. m. .... 32
11 a. m. .... 33	11 a. m. .... 33
12 noon .... 34	12 noon .... 34
1 p. m. .... 35	1 p. m. .... 35
2 p. m. .... 36	2 p. m. .... 36

TIDE TABLE.

High tide.....9:15 a. m. and 3:45 p. m.

Low tide.....5:21 a. m. and 5:48 p. m.

SUN TABLE.

Sun rises.....6:08 Sun sets.....6:08

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## AMERICAN SHIPPERS STRONGLY RESENT BLOCKADE ORDER

Protests Against British Edict Flood Congressmen and Reach White House.

## WILSON AND BRYAN CONFER

War to Starve Out Germany Will Not Be Halted, According to Authorities.

Protests against the new British order in council and the expected hardships it will visit on American trade are beginning to flood members of Congress, to fill the press, and to reach the Administration.

That the new blockade of Germany, which is known as a "modified blockade," will cause strong resentment among shippers and business men in this country is becoming more than ever apparent. Meantime, the President and State Department are studying the new order and negotiating on its effects.

President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan had a long conference at the White House this afternoon. The conference lasted an hour.

The new British order-in-council, the effects of it on American commerce, and the nature of the action to be taken by this Government are understood to have been discussed. President Wilson is taking the closest personal interest in the remarkable international situation.

**Policy Will Remain.**

Vigorous protest by this Government is certain. Other neutrals, either singly or by joint action, will protest. But the situation today is not different from what it was yesterday in this respect, that there is not the slightest indication that Great Britain and her allies will retreat from the position they have taken.

This position was taken after careful deliberation. The war to starve out Germany having been entered on, it will not be halted, according to the belief of the best informed men here.

The signature in the hands of Secretary Redfield shows that a large part of the export business of the country in recent weeks has been cotton shipments. This cotton business will be hit. Great Britain will take cotton cargoes, but it is not expected she will pay more than the market price instead of the contract price. Estimates of the new British order will cause this country a loss of \$100,000 a day in customs and a loss to Germany of \$100,000 a month in exports to this country alone. Treasury officials are worried over the effects of the revenue, already curtailed by the war.

Senator Walsh of Montana called on the President last night and talked over the situation. On leaving the President, Senator Walsh said an unusually strong protest would be made to England. He does not expect an extra session, but he spoke of the general regret that Congress had not been able to act more quickly in the past.

Way to Concessions.

Congressman Townner of Iowa today said there was one practicable way for the United States to force concessions in respect to treatment of neutral commerce.

"We could declare an embargo on war munitions and be on strong and defensible grounds," said Judge Turner. "The statement of Lord Kitchener as to need of war munitions is the best evidence of how important such supplies are to England. The President should have power to declare such an embargo, and if he had it would be in a position to back up the protests of this Government against interference with neutral commerce."

## U. S. Expected to Plan for Bigger Trade With Russia

One effect of the troubles of this Government over neutral commerce with Germany has been to cause the Administration to direct keener attention to closer trade relations with Russia.

It is expected the Administration will present to the Senate for ratification at the next session of Congress a new commercial treaty with Russia, which will mean increased trade with that country and better commercial relations.

Henry D. Baker, a special commercial attaché, soon will be sent to Russia by the Department of Commerce to study conditions, and ascertain how best American trade may expand in the Czar's dominions.

## Court Refuses Papers Wanted by Van Horn

BOSTON, March 17.—A petition by Werner van Horn, under indictment for blowing up part of the International Bridge at Vancouver, Me., to have United States District Attorney Aperson ordered to return van Horn's private papers and personal effects to the defendant was denied by Federal Judge Norton.

## GERMANS FALL BACK BEFORE PRZASNY SZ Osovetz Under Fire of 42-Centimeters — Austrians Fall Back in Carpathians.

PETROGRAD, March 17.—Floods in the valley of the Osovetz river have forced the Germans threatening Przasnysz from the northeast to retire for a distance of nearly two miles, according to Warsaw dispatches today.

Melting snow caused the river to pass out of its banks, inundating the shallow trenches thrown up by the enemy when their forward movement was begun from Chorzelo. There are no Germans now within seven miles of Przasnysz.

Bombardment of Osovetz by the German 42-centimeters continues. Because of the distance at which the shells are proceeding, only slight damage has been done. To the north the enemy has made sporadic attempts to reach the Osovetz, about twenty-five miles northwest of Grodno.

The latest Austrian attempt to march toward Przemyśl apparently has been abandoned. The Austrians are falling back in the Tzask and Lupkow pass regions after having lost several regiments and enormous quantities of war munitions. The Russian forces besieging Przemyśl have moved heavy artillery closer to the outer forts, and have resumed the bombardment.

Southeast of Stanislaw, where the Archduke Ferdinand's Austrian army halted in its retreat from the Dniester, another big battle is developing.

## METHOD OF FIGHTING SUBMARINE SECRET

British Admiralty Will Not Let Public Know Until the War Is Over.

LONDON, March 17.—Two German submarines are long overdue at Cuxhaven. If the English public knew why they would have solved the new mystery of how Winston Churchill and the English navy are fighting the German unterseaboats.

The secret will not come out until after the war is over. The English public until that time will not even know the score in the great game of hide and seek between the English navy and the German submarines. If the English can help it, the Germans themselves will never know why certain submarines failed to come home.

**Popular Idea Erroneous.**

The English public figured up its own idea and had it for quite a while. The admiralty, said the public quite confidently, had fitted up a lot of very small boats, very fast, and each carrying one big gun. These little boats were to patrol British waters and make dash attacks on submarines.

The idea was that it took a German submarine fifteen minutes to fill her tanks and submerge, and that in that time one of the small boats could reach her and send her to the bottom. Then the public discovered that a German submarine in reality can submerge in a minute and a half, and the idea went overboard.

**May Be Using Nets.**

Now the public has the admiralty rigging a huge maze of chain nets which are trailed through the waters of the Channel by the big dreadnaughts. Public opinion has been shocked by the "making hauls" of the 30-ton German monsters, like giant fishermen. The idea is that the net doesn't bring the submarine up like a fish but tangles a chain in her propeller and rudder and renders her helpless.

Admiralty officials laugh when they hear the public talk about the warship hunts and mysterious ways of dealing with von Tirpitz's raiders. But there is a growing belief that as time goes by, more and more submarine will be "overdue" at Cuxhaven.

## Russia Buys All Wheat In Region of Black Sea

LONDON, March 17.—To relieve the Russian civil population the Russian government has bought practically all the wheat that can be exported from the region of the Black sea.

Should the waterway be opened as the result of the naval operations of the allies against Constantinople, the government will form a special organization to transport and sell wheat. Great Britain and France have the promise of an option on all exported wheat, not only for the use of the military, but of the civil population as well. A high official in the Russian government here said.

"The Russian government has control of the largest part of the wheat now, and besides, the people will have to depend on the government for means of transportation. England and France will naturally receive the first option on wheat for military and civil purposes."

## Russian Reservists Are Called to the Colors

SEATTLE, Wash., March 17.—All Russian reservists in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and Alaska have been ordered home to join the colors in an order issued by Nicolas Bogolovnenko, Russian consul general here. At the consulate today it was said that approximately 35,000 men in the Pacific northwest would be affected. The order applies to all classes of reservists, and it is said to be the first issued by the Russian consul general since the European war began.

The reservists must report to their commands not later than April 15 under penalty of being declared deserters.

## U. S. Is Asked to Protest Treatment of Raid Crew

AMSTERDAM, March 17.—The newspaper Tjld learns from Berlin that the American ambassador has been asked by Germany to lodge a protest at London against the treatment by the British authorities of the crew of the German submarine U-12, which it is alleged, is contrary to international law and would necessitate reprisals.

The submarine U-12 was sunk by the British destroyer Ariel on March 10. Ten of the crew were saved. The announcement was made owing to the nature of the German submarine war, the ordinary privileges of prisoners of war would be withheld from the crew of the U-12 as well as other submarine crews.

## GERMANS OPEN NEW FIRE UPON SOISSONS AND CITY OF RHEIMS

Two Shells Add to Destruction of Cathedral—Interior Is in Ruins.

## BELGIANS ADVANCE ON YSER

British Foil Attacks Near Arras. French Make Gains in Argonne and Champagne.

PARIS, March 17.—Renewal of the bombardment of Rheims by German artillerymen and allied gains at several points along the Franco-Flanders battle line were reported in official dispatches today.

Two German shells have added to the work of destruction at the historic Rheims Cathedral. Part of the roof has been wrecked, and the interior of the cathedral is in ruins.

Between Dixmude and Neuport, the Belgians have made further progress along the Yser.

## British Repel Attack.

In the fighting around Arras, the British have repelled several German attacks. The Germans are again shelling Soissons, directing part of their fire against the position held by the French north of the Aisne.

The Belgians have made important gains in the Champagne and Argonne. North of Meuse the Germans were driven back along a front of nearly one-third of a mile in width. In the Argonne, between Bolante and Four de Paris several German attacks have been repulsed.

## French Storm German Positions Near Mesnil; British Lose Near Arras

BERLIN (via wireless to Sayville).—March 17.—The French are again storming the German trenches in the Champagne region, according to the official statement from the war office today.

West of Perthes the attacks were unsuccessful, but north of Mesnil a strong French force is making energetic assaults upon the German positions. The result of this fighting was in doubt when official dispatches were filed to Berlin.

At several other points in France, violent engagements are occurring. In east Artois region, a French detachment that occupied the west slope of the plateau of Vauquois has been driven from its position and forced to retreat. In the Priest woods, northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, two French attacks have failed.

In the north the Germans have finally taken possession of a cliff northwest of Arras after a three days' battle in which the British suffered heavy losses. At the other end of the battle line, in the Vosges, only artillery duels are in progress.

French have been no important developments in Poland in the last twenty-four hours.

The first time since the Maubourin Lakes battles, a Russian force has appeared near the north Prussian frontier around Tilsit. The enemy, apparently, was not in great force and the attacks were easily repulsed.

## 33,142 Names Are Added To German Casualty List

COPENHAGEN, March 17.—The last official Prussian casualty list issued at Berlin adds 33,142 names to previous lists, according to Berlin dispatches today.

The grand total of all Prussian losses in killed, wounded, and missing since the war began is 1,660,939. Totals to date for the Saxons, Wuertembergers, and Saxon land forces, and for the losses in the German navy are not available.

## May Offer German Loan To American Investors

NEW YORK, March 17.—Chandler Brothers, Inc., of this city and Philadelphia, are attempting to form a syndicate of trust companies and banks to offer in this country \$20,000,000 German government treasury notes. Members of the firm said today it was proposed that the notes should run nine months and yield over 6 per cent.

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